



# Arboricultural Report

5 Newark Road  
Bassingham  
Lincoln  
LN5 9HA

**Steven Kemp**

**Arboricultural Consultant**

*Client:*

**Mr J Newman**

*Inspection date:*

**26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

*Surveyor:*

**Steven Kemp (NDFArb, TechArborA)**

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## Introduction

### 1. Qualifications and experience

This report is based on my site observations and any provided information. The conclusions I have come to are founded on my qualifications and experience.

#### *Qualifications*

National Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture between 1999 and 2002.  
Arboricultural Association Technician in Arboriculture.  
LANTRA Bat awareness certificate for Arborists.

#### *Experience*

Ten years as a climbing Lead Arborist gaining extensive knowledge of tree ailments, failures and fungal interactions.  
Five years as a Local Authority Tree Officer, including digitally assessing and plotting the Local Authority tree stock.  
One year as a Senior Arboriculturist for a company dealing with environmental planning, ecology and sustainability services at regional and national level within the UK.  
Senior arboriculturist delivering the tree survey and report for the Ancient tree stock at Sherwood Forest in relation to the demolition of the visitor centre, this involved working closely with ecologists, Natural England, the Wildlife Trust and Nottinghamshire County Council.  
Carrying out tree inspections, surveys and reports for commercial and domestic clients since 2005.

The value of trees in urban environments is now generally recognised. Their presence is important not only aesthetically but also socially in helping to make cities and towns agreeable places in which to live and work. It is, however, also well known that under certain conditions serious damage can be caused to buildings by neighbouring trees.

### 2. Assignment

I am instructed by Mr J Newman (from here on referred to as the 'client') to inspect a number trees located at 5 Newark Road, Bassingham, Lincoln LN5 9HA and to provide a report to fulfil the following criteria.

- A schedule of the relevant tree. This includes tree location, basic data and condition assessment.
- An assessment based on current targets, proximity to property, defects and likelihood of failure.
- Recommendations for remedial work based on the findings of the survey.

### 3. Relevant background information

I received a phone call from Mr J Newman concerning a number of trees located on land belonging to the property 5 Newark Road, Bassingham, Lincoln. I met the client on site to ascertain the boundary and the trees concerned. Two of the Ash trees that are located off-site, adjacent to the boundary of the property, had previously been given permission for removal by North Kesteven Council, unfortunately the permission had lapsed and a second application for removal was imminent.

### 4. Scope of the report

This report is concerned with the health and structural integrity of eight individual trees, one group of trees and one hedgerow. A preliminary assessment based on the site visit is included.

## 5. Technical references

This report is based on the following technical references:

- British Standards Institution (2010) BS3998 Recommendations for Tree Work
- Cutler, DF, and Richardson, IBK. *Tree Roots and Buildings*, Construction Press, London and New York
- Roberts, J, Jackson, N, and Smith, M. *Tree Roots in the Built Environment*. Research for Amenity Trees No. 8. Arboricultural Association
- Mattheck, C, and Breloer, H. *The Body Language of Trees – A Handbook for Failure Analysis*. The Stationary Office, London.
- Lonsdale, D. 1999. *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*. The Stationary Office, London.
- Strouts, RG and Winter, TG 1994. *Diagnosis of Ill-Health in Trees*. The Stationary Office, London.

## 6. Mapping

I have plotted the trees by the combined use of property position and any land features. The site plan within this report is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only. It should not be used to determine the scaling measurements. A topographical survey of the site was not provided.

A site plan showing the tree locations can be found in Appendix 'C'

## Limitations

### 7. Survey

The Tree Survey was performed, using the Visual Tree Assessment method based on guidance in 'Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management' (Lonsdale 1999) and 'The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for failure Analysis' (Mattheck and Breloer, 1994) as well as more recently published guidance.

Any unusual or severe changes in soil, soil levels, changes to surroundings and / or weather conditions may dramatically change the health / vigour of the tree.

### 8. Tree Health

Trees are dynamic structures that are constantly evolving in response to environmental, weather, or site-specific conditions, that can never be guaranteed 100% safe. They can be damaged by storms or become infected by disease and airborne decay organisms at any time and even in good condition they can suffer damage under average conditions. Regular inspections are recommended to help identify potential problems.

### 9. Time Limit

Due to the changing nature of trees and their environment, this report and any recommendations made are limited to a 24-month period. Any alteration to the site could change the current circumstances and may invalidate this report and any recommendations made.

### 10. Buildings

This report does not consider the potential future impact that the existing tree may have on the building and its structural integrity. The advice of a structural engineer should be sought if there are concerns over such matters occurring presently.

## Site Visit and Description

### 11. Site Visit

I carried out a site visit on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023, all my observations and investigations were from a visual assessment from ground level. The weather at the time of the survey was sunny with a light westerly breeze and

visibility was good. Photographs are included in the report as a visual aid for specific issues and can be found in (Appendix 'B').

## 12. Site Description

The site lies 12 miles to the south-west of Lincoln City centre. The site comprises of a detached residential single storey property with a wrap around garden and a driveway to the west. The boundary to the north of the site borders a graveyard, agricultural land borders the boundary to the east, the south of the site borders a residential property and the west of the site borders Newark Road. Access to the property is gained from Newark Road.

## Tree Location and Assessment

### 13. Location of the Trees

One Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, and two Cherry trees *Prunus sp.*, are located off-site to the north. One Walnut *Juglans sp.*, is located on-site to the east. Four Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* are located off-site to the south and a group of 9 trees including Ash, Cherry, Leyland cypress *Cuppresses x leylandii*, Yew *Taxus sp.* And Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* are located on-site in the south-west corner, adjacent to the property boundary. The location of the trees are illustrated on the plan included in Appendix 'C'. The plan should not be used for direct scaling and is for illustrative purposes only. Detailed information on the health and location of the trees are contained within this report in 'Table 1'.

### 14. Visual Tree Assessment

The trees were assessed by carrying out a visual tree assessment (VTA), undertaken by Steven Kemp, taking into consideration the following points, including:

- A VTA, taking into account the overall shape, foliage and bud form.
- The ground conditions including soil compaction and the presence of other vegetation.
- Exposure to the weather / prevailing winds.
- Health and visual defects of the tree, including the trees 'body language', foliage irregularities, dieback, pruning, fungal presence and deadwood.
- Proximity to targets.

An assessment of each individual tree was made from this information in relation to the proximity to targets and the future growth rate, health and stability of the tree in relation to the target. Recommendations are then made using the information above which can include the following but is not exhaustive.

- Remedial pruning / limb removal
- Pruning for aesthetics.
- Removal of significant deadwood.
- Whole tree removal.
- Or, no work needed.

This method of assessment is to identify any issues with the tree in relation to the targets, make an informed decision and act on it within a specified time, knowing that the response is reasonable in relation to the target and the financial resources available.

## Survey and Assessment

### 15. Tree Survey

This report is primarily concerned with:

Two Ash (T1, T2), one Walnut (T5), one Cherry (T7) and one tree group (TG1)

The remaining trees surveyed were located off-site and have been included in this report with a view to any possible future development application.

T1, a mature Ash standing at a height of 18m with a stem diameter at breast height (dbh) of 65cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 15m. Located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south.

T2, a mature Ash standing at a height of 17m with a dbh of 73cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 13m. Located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south.

T3, a mature Ash standing at a height of 16m with a dbh of 60cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 12m. Located off-site to the boundary to the south.

T4, a semi-mature Ash standing at a height of 15m with a dbh of 31cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 6m. Located off-site to the boundary to the south.

T5, a semi-mature Walnut standing at a height of 9m with a dbh of 47cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 14m. Located on-site in the north-east corner.

T6, a semi-mature Cherry standing at a height of 7m with a dbh of 35cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 8m. Located off-site to the boundary to the north.

T7, a semi-mature Cherry standing at a height of 7m with a dbh of 40cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 16m. Located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the north.

T8, a semi-mature Scots pine standing at a height of 15m with a dbh of 45cm. The canopy has an approximate mean spread of 10m. Located off-site to the boundary to the north.

TG1, a group comprised of semi-mature ash, cherry, yew, leylandii and cherry laurel standing at an average height of 12m with the largest dbh being 27cm. The canopy has an average approximate mean spread of 9m. Located on-site in the south-west corner.

H1, a linear hedge comprised of cherry laurel standing at a height of 3m with an average dbh of 11cm. The canopy has an average mean spread of 4m. Located on-site adjacent to the boundary to the north.

### 16. Tree Assessment

T1 is a mature ash located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south. The crown was sparse with evidence of pruning wounds with partial occlusion from a previous crown lift. The main stem forks into 2 from the base, at 1.5m from ground level one stem forks again with a compression fork and reactive growth present (see Appendix 'B').

T2 is a mature ash located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south. The crown was sparse with evidence of pruning wounds with little occlusion from a previous crown lift. The main stem was co-dominant, forking at 1.5m with evidence of an included union present. Partially occluded wounding was present to the north east aspect of both stems up to 4.5m from ground level (see Appendix 'B').

T3 is a mature ash located off-site to the south. The crown was sparse with pruning wounds present. The specimen was multi stemmed and crowded, forming at ground level. Decay was present at the base of the stems to the east and the south (see Appendix 'B').

T4 is a semi-mature ash located off-site to the south. The crown was sparse and suppressed by the adjacent ash. The specimen was multi stemmed with several stems historically removed (see Appendix 'B').

T5 is a semi-mature walnut located on-site in the north-east corner. The crown was balanced with pruning wounds to the north at 2m with decay onset. A dead branch to the south with an approximate diameter of 75mm was present along with other deadwood throughout the crown. The main stem had a slight lean to the north with a bark wound to the south, evidence of possible historical fungus around root plate area. (see Appendix 'B').

T6 is a semi-mature cherry located off-site to the north. The crown was balanced and the main stem straight.

T7 is a semi-mature cherry located off site adjacent to the boundary to the north, standing on a slightly raised elevation in comparison to the site. The crown was balanced with moderate deadwood present, evidence of a fruiting body was noted to the east at 3.5m from ground level. The main stem was straight with ivy attached which had previously been severed. A bleeding wound was present at the base to the south (see Appendix 'B').

T8 is a mature Scots pine located off site to the north-west corner. The crown was balanced and the stem was straight.

TG1 is a group of semi-mature mixed species of varying heights, located on-site in the south-west corner adjacent to the boundary and the neighbouring property. The ash are likely to be self-set and stand within 4m of the adjacent property. The crowns form as one visual crown. The stems are generally straight within the group (see Appendix 'B').

H1 is a semi-mature linear group of cherry laurel, forming an unmaintained hedge along the boundary to the north.

**Table 1 – 5 Newark Road, Bassingham, Lincoln**

Tree number	Tree species	Height (m)	Dbh (cm)	Crown spread (m)	Age Class	Physical condition	SULE	Condition	Recommendations	Risk rating	
										Work priority	Inspection frequency
T1	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	18	65	N – 7 E – 7 S – 8 W - 9	M	F	<10	<p>Fair condition</p> <p>A mature ash located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south. Sparse crown with evidence of pruning wounds with partial occlusion from a previous crown lift. The main stem forks into 2 from the base, at 1.5m from ground level one stem forks again with compression fork and reactive growth present.</p> <p>Poor form Target: Clients' property, adjacent garden. Amenity value: Med</p>	Remove and poison stump.	4	3
T2	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	17	73	N – 6 E – 8 S – 8 W - 6	M	F	<10	<p>Fair condition</p> <p>A mature ash located off-site adjacent to the boundary to the south. The crown was sparse with evidence of pruning wounds with little occlusion from a previous crown lift. The main stem was co-dominant, forking at 1.5m with evidence of an included union present. Partially occluded wounding was present to the north-east aspect of both stems up to 4.5m from ground level.</p> <p>Poor form Target: Clients' property, adjacent garden. Amenity value: Med</p>	Remove and poison stump.	4	3



T3	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	16	60	N - 6 E - 7 S - 7 W - 5	M	F	<10	<p>Fair condition</p> <p>A mature ash located off-site to the south. The crown was sparse with pruning wounds present. The specimen was multi stemmed and crowded, forming at ground level. Decay was present at the base of the stems to the east and the south.</p> <p>Poor form</p> <p>Target: Clients' property, adjacent garden. Amenity value: Med</p>	No recommendation applicable to this report.	N/A	N/A
T4	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	15	31	N - 3 E - 2 S - 3 W - 4	SM	F	<10	<p>Fair condition</p> <p>A semi-mature ash located off-site to the south. The crown was sparse and suppressed by the adjacent ash. The specimen was multi stemmed with several stems historically removed.</p> <p>Poor form</p> <p>Target: Clients' property, adjacent garden. Amenity value: Med</p>	No recommendation applicable to this report	N/A	N/A
T5	Walnut <i>Juglans sp.</i>	9	47	N - 7 E - 7 S - 5 W - 7	SM	F	>10	<p>Fair condition</p> <p>A semi-mature walnut located on-site in the north-east corner. The crown was balanced with pruning wounds to the north at 2m with decay onset. A dead branch to the south with an approximate diameter of 75mm was present along with further deadwood throughout the crown. The main stem had a slight lean to the north with a bark wound to the south, evidence of possible historical fungus around root plate area.</p> <p>Fair form</p> <p>Target: Clients' grounds Amenity value: Med</p>	Remove and poison stump	4	3

T6	Cherry <i>Prunus sp.</i>	7	35	N – 4 E – 4 S – 4 W - 4	SM	G	>20	<p>Good condition</p> <p>A semi-mature cherry located off-site to the north. The crown was balanced and the main stem straight.</p> <p>Good form Target: Graveyard grounds Amenity value: Med</p>	No works required	4	3
T7	Cherry <i>Prunus sp.</i>	7	40	N – 8 E – 8 S – 7 W - 8	SM	G	>20	<p>Good condition</p> <p>A semi-mature cherry located off site adjacent to the boundary to the north, standing on a slightly raised elevation in comparison to the site. The crown was balanced with moderate deadwood present, evidence of a fruiting body was noted to the east at 3.5m from ground level. The main stem was straight with ivy attached which had previously been severed. A bleeding wound was present at the base to the south.</p> <p>Good form Target: Graveyard grounds, clients' grounds Amenity value: Med</p>	No recommendation applicable to this report.	4	3
T8	Scots pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	15	45	N – 5 E – 5 S – 5 W - 5	M	G	>20	<p>Good condition</p> <p>A mature Scots pine located off site to the north-west corner. The crown was balanced and the stem was straight.</p> <p>Good form Target: Graveyard grounds, clients' grounds, public highway Amenity value: High</p>	No works required	4	3

TG1	<p>Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i></p> <p>Cherry <i>Prunus sp.</i></p> <p>Leyland cypress <i>Cuppresses x leylandii</i></p> <p>Tew <i>Taxus sp.</i></p> <p>Cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i></p>	12 Avg	27	<p>N - 4</p> <p>E - 4</p> <p>S - 4</p> <p>W - 4</p>	SM	G	>20	<p>Good condition</p> <p>A group of semi-mature mixed species of varying heights, located on-site in the south-west corner adjacent to the boundary and the neighbouring property. The ash are likely to be self-set and stand within 4m of the adjacent property. The crowns form as one visual crown. The stems are generally straight within the group.</p> <p>Fair form Target: Clients' property, public highway, neighbours' property Amenity value: Med</p>	<p>Remove one cherry, one Leyland cypress and 5 ash, retaining the yew and the cherry laurel, allowing them to mature and grow within an open, light area</p>	4	3
H1	<p>Cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i></p>	3	11 Avg	<p>N - 2</p> <p>E - 2</p> <p>S - 2</p> <p>W - 2</p>				<p>Good condition</p> <p>A semi-mature linear group of cherry laurel, forming an unmaintained hedge along the boundary to the north.</p> <p>Fair form Target: Clients' property, graveyard Amenity value: Low</p>	<p>No works required</p>	6	6

**Key: Professional Tree Inspection****Tree number:**

Refer to plan

**Tree Species:**

Botanical name and Latin name

**Tree Height:**

Measured in metres

**Dbh:**

Diameter at Breast Height 1.4m measured in cm

**Crown Spread:**

Approximate measurement at cardinal points, from trunk to drip line in metres

**Age class:**

Young (Y), Semi mature (SM), Mature (M), Ancient (A), Veteran (V)

**Condition:**

Good (G): Healthy full crown no significant defects;

Fair (F): Generally healthy, some defects low key;

Poor (P): Lacking vigour, short useful life expectancy, sparse leaf cover; Dangerous;

(D): Dead / urgent removal required.

**SULE**

Safe Useful Life Expectancy

**Recommendations:**

What works are required, if any.

**Work priority:**

1 Urgent: work required immediately to make safe;

2 Very high: Works required within 30 days;

3 High: Works required within 90 days;

4 Moderate: Works required as part of scheduled maintenance;

5 Low: Works of low priority;

6 None: No work required.

**Inspection frequency:**

1 Urgent: Carry out detailed aerial inspection and / or with the use of decay detection equipment as soon as can be arranged;

2 Very high: 6 monthly inspections;

3 High: 12 monthly inspections;

4 Moderate: 18 monthly inspections;

5 Low: 3 yearly inspections;

6 Very low: 5 yearly inspections;

7 None: No target exists or is excluded.

### Appendix B - Photographs



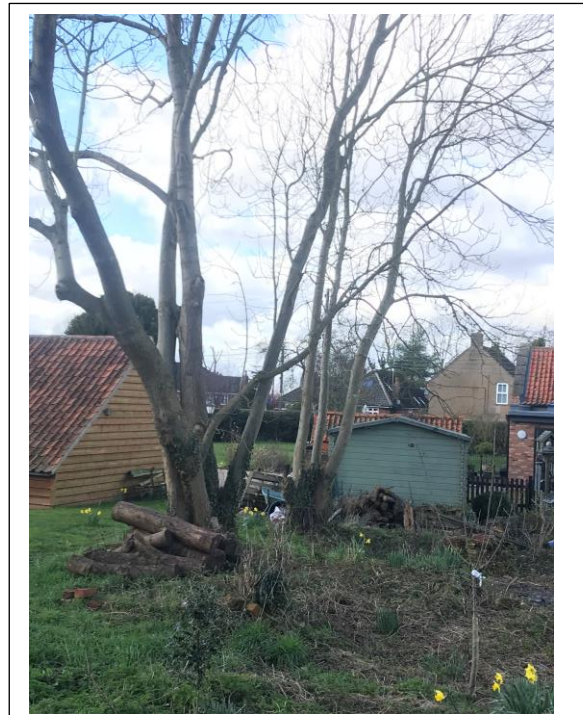
T1 (right) and T2 (left) Photograph taken looking north-east



T1 Photograph showing main ivy covered stem



T2 Photograph showing included union on co-dominant stem



T3 (foreground) and T4 Photograph taken from southern boundary



T3 Photograph showing weak included union



T4 Photograph showing decay pocket



T5 Photograph taken looking north east



T7 Photograph looking north to graveyard



TG1 Photograph taken looking south



H1 Photograph taken from Newark Road looking east

## Recommendations

### 17. Recommendations

The recommendations put forward in Table 1 for the removal of T1 and T2 are based on the current condition and form of the trees, the predicted SULE and the proximity to the site.

T5 recommendations are based on the current condition, the predicted SULE and the evidence of historical fungus around the root plate area.

TG1 recommendations to remove seven of the existing trees is based on the intention to add value to the remaining trees by removing the crowded area of self-set ash, cherry and leylandii, allowing the remaining two yews and one laurel to grow in a light and healthy atmosphere, with the intention of improving the aesthetic and amenity value for this area within the village.

## Other considerations

### 18. Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and Conservation Area (CA)

A tree preservation order, referred to as a 'TPO' is an order made by a local planning authority ('LPA') in respect of trees or woodlands.

The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the: Cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage, or wilful destruction of trees without the LPA's consent. The cutting of roots is potentially damaging and so, in the Secretary of State's view, requires LPA consent.

Anyone who, in contravention of a TPO, wilfully damages a tree in a way that it is likely to destroy it is guilty of an offence. Anyone found guilty of this offence is liable, if convicted in the Magistrates Court, to a fine of up to £20,000, in serious cases a person may be committed for trial in the Crown Court and, if convicted, is liable to an unlimited fine.

Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural or historical interest with a character of appearance that is desirable to preserve or enhance. Trees may often contribute to the special character of the area.

All trees in a Conservation Area are subject to controls which enable the LPA to protect the special character of the area created by the trees. If trees have a specific TPO on them, then the normal TPO controls apply.

You must give the LPA 6 weeks' notice, in writing, of your intention to do any work to trees in a Conservation Area. You must not carry out any work during the six-week period, which starts from the date of receipt of your notification by the council, unless you receive written permission to do so.

Work which is not exempt and is carried out without formal notification or within the six-week period without the written consent of the council is illegal. The LPA may prosecute offenders and fines of up to £20,000 for each tree may be imposed by the Magistrates Court in the event of offenders being convicted of an offence. If proceedings are instituted in the Crown Court fines are unlimited. There is a duty to replace any tree removed without permission.

All trees within this report fall within a Conservation Area, therefore permission to complete any works to trees will have to be applied for from the Local Authority.

### 19. Local Authority details

North Kesteven District Council  
22 East Gate  
Sleaford  
NG34 7EF



## **20. Tree works**

All tree works should be carried out to BS 3998 Recommendation for Tree Work as modified by more recent research. It is advisable to select a contractor from the local authority list or, alternatively, one who is approved by the Arboricultural Association.

## **21. Future considerations**

The tree noted in this report, unless removed, should be inspected on a regular basis as advised in Table 1.

## **22. Summary**

The recommendations within this report for the trees located on-site are based on the species, the current condition and the SULE of each individual tree. The trees off-site have been assessed because of the close proximity to the site, no recommendations have been given for these off-site trees, nevertheless, any structural defects, health issues and the predicted SULE of each individual tree has been noted in Table 1. I recommend that any concerns regarding these trees should be addressed to the appropriate owner(s) and any action necessary be agreed and undertaken.

**Appendix C**

**Tree Location Plan**

